

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT
(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference MANNA/101.PC	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/GB 02/05942	International filing date (day/month/year) 30.12.2002	Priority date (day/month/year) 30.12.2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC A47G25/40		
Applicant NATHANMANNA, Ameyrtharatanarajah		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.
 - This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).
 These annexes consist of a total of 3 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:
 - I Basis of the opinion
 - II Priority
 - III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
 - IV Lack of unity of invention
 - V Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
 - VI Certain documents cited
 - VII Certain defects in the international application
 - VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 15.07.2004	Date of completion of this report 03.11.2004
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Tx: 31 651 epo nl Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016	Authorized Officer Beugeling, G.L.H. Telephone No. +31 70 340-3284 

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/GB 02/05942

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, Pages

1-7 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-11 received on 15.07.2004 with letter of 13.07.2004

Drawings, Sheets

1/7-3/7, 5/7-7/7 received on 05.02.2003 with letter of 04.02.2003

4/7 received on 19.03.2003 with letter of 13.03.2003

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- contained in the international application in written form.
- filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- the description, pages:
- the claims, Nos.:
- the drawings, sheets:

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5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-11
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	1-11
	No: Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-11
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

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Re Item I

Basis of the opinion

Substitute drawing sheet 4/7, Figure 4, as filed with letter of 04.02.03 (Formal Drawings) as well as the new Formal Drawing sheet 4/7, Figure 4, filed on 19.03.03 with letter of 13.03.03 cannot be allowed as the modified design of track (3) introduces subject-matter which extends beyond the content of the application as filed.

Re Item V

Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

- 1) Reference is made to the following document:

D1: US 4 524 890 A.

- 2) D1, which is considered to represent the most relevant state of the art, already discloses, see figures, a foldable clothes hanger comprising, in short (using the terms of present claim 1 but referring to D1): two foldable arms (11, 12), common axis (28), toothed arcuate rack (17, 19), pinion (18), parallel axis (25), catch means (22), means to effect resilient engagement (resiliency of (21)) and release means (terminal end of (21)) manually operable to counter and permit disengagement of the catch means.

The foldable clothes hanger according to present claim 1 differs in that

- a) each of the arms carries a generally arcuate limb provided with latch means,
- b) the catch means are to engage with the latch means,
- c) the means to effect resilient engagement are to effect resilient engagement between the latch means of the two arms and the catch means engageable therewith, and
- d) the release means are operable to counter substantially simultaneously the resilient engagements and permit substantially simultaneously disengagement of the latch means of the two arms and the catch means.

The subject-matter of claim 1 is therefore novel (Article 33(2) PCT).

The problem to be solved by difference (a) may therefore be regarded as the

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selection of appropriate additional latch means.

To provide each of the arms with a generally arcuate limb provided with latch means as proposed by difference (a) is considered to involve an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT) because it is neither known from nor suggested by the available prior art. Moreover, the catch means (22) of D1 are only suitable to engage with the latch means (21) of one foldable arm (12).

Claims 2 to 11 are dependent on claim 1 and as such also meet the requirements of the PCT with respect to novelty and inventive step.

- 3) It is clear from the description that it is essential to the definition of the invention that the adjacent parallel axis (9) and the catch means (5, 4) should be in a fixed position with respect to the common axis (8) or, in other words, that the adjacent parallel axis (9), the common axis (8) and the catch means (5, 4) are all provided on the same main body (1), see for example for the adjacent parallel axis (9) the first part of present claim 6. Since independent claim 1 does not contain such main body (1) it does not meet the requirement following from Article 6 PCT taken in combination with Rule 6.3(b) PCT that any independent claim must contain all the technical features essential to the definition of the invention.
- 4) According to the requirements of Rule 11.13(m) PCT the same feature shall be denoted by the same reference sign throughout the application. This requirement is not met in view of the use of (3) referring to "means to effect resilient engagement" in claim 1, to "arcuate strip" in claims 3, 8, to "retention track" on pages 4, 6 and to "track" on pages 5, 6 and of the use of (1) referring to "main body" on page 3, line 28, to "main part" in claims 6, 8, to "housing" in claim 5 and on page 5, line 5 and to "housing disc" on page 5, line 7 and page 6, line 2.
